

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SOMALIA—Add.1

BELGIUM

- Is the Government of Somalia (TFG) considering ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court?
- Is the Government of Somalia considering ratifying the human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, like the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol?
- Is the Government of Somalia considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party such as ICERD and CAT?
- Is the Government of Somalia considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures?
- Is the Government of Somalia considering agreeing upon the requested visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences?

CANADA

- Canada notes the Transitional Government's commitment to the total elimination of the widespread practice of Female Genital Mutilation in Somalia. What measures are being currently being taken to address the issue of Female Genital Mutilation?
- Canada notes the Transitional Government's obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and commends its proposal to integrate IHL training into the training scheme of its armed and security forces, at all levels.
- Canada would be grateful if the Transitional Government would elaborate on its plan to adopt a training scheme for its security institutions, including any prospective roadmap for its development and implementation.
- Conflict in Somalia has included the widespread and systematic use of children as soldiers. Canada is aware that the Transitional Government is committed to implementing a comprehensive policy to prevent the use of children as soldiers. What measures are being taken to stop the recruitment of child soldiers and to demobilize and reintegrate those who are currently active?
- Canada would be grateful for an update on the Transitional Government's investigation into allegations of the use of child soldiers by TFG security

forces, which was announced on June 15, 2010 (by President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed).

- Canada notes that journalistic freedom and the right to free expression remains frequently curtailed and that in all parts of Somalia, journalists continue to face severe threats and intimidation by the authorities and armed opposition groups. The International Labour Organization indicated that Somalia remained one of the most dangerous places for journalists' safety. What measures are being taken to enhance freedom of expression and journalistic freedoms?
- What steps are being taken to resolve the current dissonance between the Transitional Federal Charter (art. 8) and its obligations with respect to religious freedom under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Somalia is a signatory?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- The National Report mentions that in fact the main challenge ahead of the Somali Government is the harmonization between the traditional setting and the modern statehood of which the harmonization between the genuine Islamic Sharia law, the Somali customary law and the modern law is one of the main pillars. What measures has the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) already taken or is intending to take in order to harmonize above mentioned law systems?

NETHERLANDS

- With reference to paragraphs 27 to 34 of the OHCHR-compilation in which it is stated that domestic violence is a major concern throughout Somalia, the many problems that victimized women face, the common impunity for the perpetrators of crimes against children, including sexual violence. What is the government/TFG planning to do to address this problem? In reference to paragraph 2 of the OHCHR-report, is the government of Somalia planning to ratify CEDAW?
- In the national report (paragraph 54) it is mentioned that the Transitional Federal Charter (article 20) guarantees the freedom of the press and independent media. However, paragraph 47 of the OHCHR-report paints a different picture. Here it is mentioned that the right to freedom of expression remains frequently curtailed and reportedly journalists in all parts of Somalia face severe threats and intimidations by authorities and armed opposition groups. Could the government respond to these allegations?
- Paragraph 51 of the national report states that the death penalty is still applicable legally in Somalia, but that the TFG does not want to add more loss of life. Furthermore, the paragraph continues with stating that the Government is considering putting a moratorium on the death penalty. What would the TFG or government need to pursue this road?

- Paragraph 52 mentions that there is a trend lately in many countries to end this harmful practice. Could the government elaborate on the reasons why this trend is happening? What action has the TFG undertaken and will it in the future undertake to improve the situation of women in areas under TFG control?

NORWAY

- How does the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia imagine that a fruitful cooperation with relevant UN institutions may look like?
- Will the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia consider abandoning the death penalty?
- What steps are taken by the Transitional Federal Government to ensure freedom speech for journalists in Somalia?
- How will the Transitional Federal Government work within the existing legal framework to put an end to harmful traditional practices and to ensure that women's rights are protected?
- Forced recruitment of school children to Shebaab remains a grave threat to these children's basic right of protection. What measures are implemented to ensure the protection of women and children's, especially in the Shebaab-controlled areas in the south of Somalia?
- What measures are taken by the Transitional Federal Government to ensure that human rights defenders can continue their work without fear of reprisals and persecution?